

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TRSY WASHDC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 1 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

PRES AT BAKERSFIELD, CALIF, AIRPORT MONDAY, BROKE INTO
UNCLASSIFIED

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SPRINT, RAN FOR PLANE, WHEN NEWSMAN ASKED WHAT HE WAS
DOING ABOUT GVN MIL LOSSES. DID NOT APPEAR AVOIDING
ISSUE; ASSISTANTS ATTEMPTING SHOW HE IS NOT INDIFFERENT
TO MIL CRISIS AND REFUGEE PLIGHT. NESSEN SAID PRES

RECEIVING COMPLETE INFO ON WAR, ATTRIBUTED RAPID DETERIORATION OF GVN MIL SITUATION TO NVN C-F VIOLATIONS AND CONGRESS' FAILURE PUT UP MONEY (HERBER, NYT). SECSTATE WILL FLY PALM SPRINGS 4/3 TO MEET WITH PRES ON WORSENING VN SITUATION; GEN WEYAND WILL RETURN FROM SVN IN TIME FOR MEETING. ASKED WHETHER PRES BLAMING CONGRESS FOR COMMUNISTS' VICTORIES, NESSEN REPLIED, "I DON'T THINK ITS A BLAMING"; ADDED PRES FINDS GVN LOSSES SOBERING AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT THEM (HEALY, NYDN). PRES PARTIALLY BLAMES CONGRESS FOR SVN MIL COLLAPSE, ACCORDING NESSEN, WHEN ASKED WHY FORD SEEMED AVOIDING VN QUESTIONS. NESSEN DECLINED SAY WHETHER PRES BELIEVES GVN COULD SURVIVE AFTER MASSIVE REVERSES. PRES' RELUCTANCE COMMENT ON VN DESCRIBED BY SOME AIDES AS REFLECTING WH UNCERTAINTY ON SITUATION

PENDING WEYAND'S REPORT (CANNON, WP).

SECDEF ON PBS/TV MONDAY PREDICTED NVA WILL ATTACK SAIGON IN MONTH OR 2, AIMING MOVE RAPIDLY AS IT CAN BEFORE SVN CAN RECOVER FROM LOSSES. ADDED WHETHER GVN CAN SURVIVE IN SAIGON, DELTA "STRONGHOLD" DEPENDS ON ITS ABILITY STABILIZE MIL SITUATION. SCHLESINGER'S COMMENTS DID NOT ADD UP TO OPTIMISTIC APPRAISAL OF GVN FORTUNES AND REPRESENTED CONSIDERABLE DRAWING BACK FROM OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN PAST 2 WEEKS (CORDDRY, SUN). SECDEF SAID EXPECTED MORE GVN WITHDRAWALS; PREDICTIONS REFLECTED BOTH INCREASINGLY GRIM DOD ASSESSMENT OF SVN CHANCES AND BEWILDERMENT OVER SPEED OF GVN DEFENSES' CRUMBLING, MOSTLY WITHOUT FIGHT. SCHLESINGER DECLINED COMMENT ON WISDOM OF THIEU'S INITIAL WITHDRAWAL STRATEGY FROM HIGHLANDS, HUE. THINKS LONG-TERM NEED FOR US AID TO SVN EXTENDS BEYOND ADMIN'S REQUEST FOR EXTRA 300 MILLION DOLS THIS YEAR (GETLER, WP). SECDEF SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SVN SITUATION THAN SOME OF CLOSEST ASSOCIATES. WAS VAGUE ON WHAT US COULD DO TO HELP, POINTED OUT SUCH DECISIONS AWAITED WEYAND RETURN (FINNEY, NYT).

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US EVACUATES NUCLEAR FUEL FROM DALAT REACTOR TO KEEP IT FROM FALLING INTO COMMUNIST HANDS. REACTOR FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH SUPPLIED GVN IN 1963. FUEL FLOWN TO JOHNSTON ISLAND FOR SAFEKEEPING (REUTER NYT, WP).

MANY ICCS MEMBERS CLEARING OUT OF SVN, OTHERS PACKING. FOUR OUT OF 7 REGIONS EVACUATED, REMAINDER SCALED DOWN. TWO ICCS MEMBERS, IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN, MAY HAVE BEEN CAPTURED AT BAN ME THUOT (MALCOLM, NYT).

UN SECGEN MAKES CAUTIOUS PLEA FOR INDOCHINA REFUGEES IN PUBLIC STATEMENT, ASKS HELP FOR CIVILIANS IN AREA. INDICATIONS ARE SECGEN RELUCTANT GET INVOLVED IN HIGHLY

POLITICAL QUESTION OF SVN REFUGEE EVACUATION. UNDERSTOOD THAT VC OFFICIALS IN GENEVA THIS WEEK REQUESTED HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES HELP FOR 500,000 REFUGEES IN REGIONS THAT HAVE COME UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL (TELTSCH, NYT).

WHEN DA NANG FELL, US GAVE UP EFFORT EVACUATE REFUGEES FROM CITY, REDIRECTED EFFORTS TO QUI NHON, TUY HOA, NHA TRANG (FINNEY, NYT). FEAR OF NVA ATTACK ON SAIGON SWEEPED GVN COASTAL ENCLAVES, THWARTED US EVACUATION OF REFUGEES (WEINRAUB, NYT - IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). PANIC GRIPS NHA TRANG AS NVA FORCES MOVE TOWARD IT FROM HIGHLANDS AND DOWN COAST. QUI NHON FATE UNCLEAR. AMCITS, TCNS BEING EVACUATED FROM NHA TRANG (BUTTERFIELD, NYT).

CHITRIB'S YATES IN NHA TRANG DESCRIBES CHAOS AS PEOPLE TRY LEAVE; PLANE TICKETS GO TO TOP BIDDERS; TUY HOA ABOUT TO FALL.

QUI NHON AND NHA TRANG GOING AS COMMUNISTS PUSH ON (CHITRIB). FORMER ABANDONED, ACCORDING MIL SOURCES; CIVIL DISORDER REPORTED IN NHA TRANG (NYDN). QUI NHON SAID TO HAVE FALLEN WITH LITTLE FIGHTING AS COMMUNISTS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF GVN DEFENDERS' DISARRAY. US OFFICIALS EVACUATED FROM QUI NHON AND TUY HOA, LEAVING NHA TRANG (WP). TASS SAYS QUI NHON "LIBERATED," SAIGON OFFICIALS SAY REMAINS IN GVN HANDS BUT CONCEDED PEOPLE FLEEING. INTL FLOTILLA OF 20 SHIPS ATTEMPTING EVACUATE REFUGEES UNCLASSIFIED

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NEAR DA NANG DELAYED BY COMMUNIST SHELLING (PHINQ).

STORIES FROM PIONEER COMMANDER, EVACUATING REFUGEES FROM DA NANG, TOLD OF GVN SOLDIERS ABOARD KILLING 25 PEOPLE, SAYING THEY WERE VC SUSPECTS. OTHERS DENIED DEAD VC (PHINQ). MUTINOUS GVN MARINES SEIZED CONTROL OF TWO US REFUGEE SHIPS, RAPED, ROBBED, BEAT AND MURDERED REFUGEES. MPS MEET SHIPS AT CAM RANH, TRY QUELL MARINES WHO GRABBED VEHICLES TO DRIVE TO NHA TRANG (UPI NYDN, CHITRIB). SVN TROOPS FOUGHT FOR LIGHTERS AND BARGES TO REACH DA NANG EVACUATION SHIPS. REFUGEES SAID GVN TROOPS RAMPAGED AND LOOTED IN DA NANG (AP NYT, PHINQ, WP, SUN).

COPTER CARRYING PRES' PERSONAL WH PHOTOGRAPHER, DAVID KENNERLY, SHOT AT BY GVN MARINES AT CAM RANH (NYT). LAST MAN TO FLEE DA NANG, ARVN SGT WHO HUNG ON TO 727 LANDING GEAR, DESCRIBES ORDEAL (AFP, WP). US SPECIALISTS SAY COST OF HELPING SVN REFUGEES WILL RUN INTO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLS (MARDER, WP). POPE EXPRESSES ANGUISH AT EVENTS IN VN (CHITRIB).

US CARRIER MIDWAY, DESTROYER LEAVE YOKOSUKA FOR
UNKNOWN DESTINATIONS (CHITRIB).

HANOI BROADCAST SAYS VC READY HOLD TALKS WITH SVN
GOVT THAT EXCLUDES THIEU AND ABIDES BY C-F. THIEU'S
POLITICAL POSITION GROWS MORE PRECARIOUS AS 38 SVN
SENATORS APPROVE STATEMENT CENSURING HIM FOR LEADERSHIP
LACK (PHINQ). HANOI RADIO SAID THOUSANDS OF ARVN
SURRENDERED IN DA NANG WHILE RESIDENTS POURED INTO
STREETS TO WELCOME VC. POLICEMAN WHO ESCAPED HUE
STATED COMMUNISTS EXECUTED 5 HIGH-RANKING POLICE IN
EFFORT TERRORIZE POPULATION TO GIVE UP HOPE OF FLIGHT.
VC SAY ALL FOREIGNERS LIVING UNDER PRG WOULD BE HELPED

AND PROTECTED IF THEY OBEY LAWS (WP). THICH TRI QUANG
LED DEMONSTRATION OF MONKS CALLING FOR THIEU OUSTER.
US EMBASSY STARTS EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS FROM SAIGON
ON SEMI-OFFICIAL BASIS, ACCORDING INFORMED SOURCES
(SUN). OPPOSITION TO THIEU RISES WITH PROTESTS BY
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SENATORS, MONKS (OBERDORFER, WP - IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

PANIC STARTS GRIP SAIGON AS SOME FOREIGNERS PREPARE
LEAVE. VIET SAYS NOBODY BELIEVES IN GVN ABILITY DEFEND
SAIGON OR IN US HELP AFTER DA NANG FALL (MCCOMBS, WP).
INFLUENTIAL ANTI-COMMUNIST THIEU FOE SAYS HE BELIEVES
COMMUNISTS HAVE WON WAR (BROWNE, NYT - IN USIA WIRELESS
FILE). NO PANIC IN SAIGON YET BUT PEOPLE TAKING
PRECAUTIONS: MOVING, LEAVING, VIET GIRLS MARRYING
AMCITS. NO GENERAL EVACUATION OF AMERICANS ANNOUNCED
MAINLY BECAUSE AMB MARTIN FEARS WOULD TOUCH OFF PANIC
THAT WOULD PRECIPITATE SAIGON FALL. MIGHT ALSO
TRIGGER VIET ATTACKS ON AMERICANS; STRONG NEW ANTI-US
WAVE EVIDENT FOR DAYS IN PRESS AS FORMER FONMIN SAYS
"BIG BROTHER HAS BETRAYED US" (PHINQ). AFP (WP) FROM
HANOI NOTES SPEED OF COLLAPSE IN SOUTH SURPRISES NVN
LEADERS, WITH SOME BELIEVING EASY SUCCESSES MAY HALT
ADVANCE SINCE PRESSING FORWARD COULD RISK SETBACKS.
NVN AND VC RECENTLY SAID LAST ACT IN VN DRAMA WOULD BE
POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BASED ON C-F AND THIEU DEPARTURE.
VC DECLARE NEW TURNING POINT REACHED, SAY PRG READY
SETTLE ALL AFFAIRS OF SVN WITH NEW GOVT IN SAIGON
(AP NYT). PHINQ'S MCCARTNEY BELIEVES BATTLE FOR
SAIGON MAY NEVER TAKE PLACE. QUOTES DOD SOURCES
THAT PRESENT DEBACLE MAY MARK END OF GVN AS VIABLE
MIL FORCE; PANIC BLAMED. SUN'S ISAACS IN SAIGON
SEES MIL STALEMATE TURNING INTO BLITZKRIEG WITH
BATTLEFIELD VICTORY, UNIMAGINABLE BEFORE, NOT ONLY
POSSIBLE BUT PERHAPS INEVITABLE. BELIEVES PRICE
FINALLY BEING PAID FOR YRS OF CORRUPTION, BLIND-ALLEY
MIL POLICIES, INCOMPETENCE, AND RECENT ECON

CRISIS.

LON NOL EXITS IN BID FOR "PEACE" AS REBELS CLOSE IN ON PP AND BATTAMBANG (AP SUN, NYDN). INSURGENTS FIRE 50 ROCKETS INTO PP AIRPORT WHERE US AIRLIFT PLANES BRING IN FOOD, FUEL AND AMMO (CHITRIB). WP'S SIMONS IN PP BELIEVES LON NOL DEPARTURE MAY LEAD TO FANK CAVE-IN (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). NYT'S LELYVELD IN PP DESCRIBES MARSHAL'S DEPARTURE, FOR BANGKOK AND INDONESIA, UNDER PRESSURE FROM OTHER GOVT MEMBERS WHO HOPE GET TALKS STARTED. QUOTES DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT TOO LATE TO NEGOTIATE ON ANYTHING BUT ORDERLY SURRENDER. LAT'S LESLIE IN PP (3/30) OPINES DEPARTURE APPEARS DESIGNED IMPRESS US CONGRESS WITH GKR SINCERITY ABOUT NEGOTIATING.

NYT'S ANDELMAN IN PP DESCRIBES WORSENING SITUATION IN CAPITAL AS PEOPLE EAT LESS, PARALYSIS GROWS AND PRICES SOAR.

SIHANOUK PLEDGES NO NEGOTIATIONS WITH GKR EVEN AFTER LON NOL DEPARTURE; CALLS SAUKHAM KHOY, WHO ACTS AS GKR HEAD, "BANDIT" (AFP, NYT; WP).

PL VICE PREMIER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT SAID TAKEOVER OF CAMBODIA AND SVN BY VIET COMMUNISTS WOULD BRING PEACE, PROSPERITY TO INDOCHINA. ADDED LAOS WILL NOT BECOME COMMUNIST (CHITRIB).

2. JAPAN

UPI (NAHA) RECALLS 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII US LANDING OKINAWA APRIL 1; NO CEREMONIES PLANNED BY US FORCES, OKINAWAN GOVT.

MOF SAID SUNDAY JAPAN RECORDED 254 MILLION DOL REVISED BOP SURPLUS FEB, IN CONTRAST 1.2 BILLION DEFICIT JAN; SAYS PARTLY DUE INFLOW DOLLAR PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS, FLOTATION CORPORATE BONDS ABROAD (REUTER, NYT).

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SAYS MOT PLANS PROBE POSSIBLE "RATE DUMPING" BY 32 AIRLINES TO DEAL WITH RECESSION. CITES MOT SOURCE THAT JAL, OTHER IATA MEMBERS, MAY BE SELLING TICKETS AT LESS THAN FAIR VALUE.

JOC (TOKYO) NOTES MITI PLANS ASK ROK, PRC, HK, ROC FOR VR ON TEXTILES TO HELP OWN AILING INDUSTRY; SAYS MIN KOMOTO INTENDS SEND MISSION PEKING "IN NEAR FUTURE" FOR FIRST OF BILATERAL APPROACHES.

NY SAYS MONDAY AGREED FORM JOINT SHIPPING VENTURE WITH

UNNAMED SAUDI INTERESTS, CALLED "RED SEA MARITIME";
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CAPITAL 8.7 MILLION DOLS, 60 PERCENT SAUDI OWNERSHIP
(JOC-TOKYO).

MITI FORECASTS ABOUT 2 PERCENT REAL GROWTH JFY 75,
BEGINNING APRIL 1; SAYS 5 PERCENT REAL GROWTH TO
FOLLOW NEXT YEAR, AFTER "INTERIM TRANSITION" FROM
FAST TO STABLE GROWTH (REUTER, NYT).

mitsui SELLS 5 PERCENT INTEREST ALUMAX, INC TO NIPPON
STEEL, FORABOUT14.6 MILLION DOLS; BOUGHT 50 PERCENT
INTEREST FROM AMAXIN 1973 (WSJ-TOKYO).

NIPPON MINING RAISES ELECTROLYTIC COPPER PRICE SECOND
TIME IN MONTH, ABOVE 66 CENTS/LB; CITES HIGHER PRICES
LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (WSJ-TOKYO).

WSJ (NY) SAYS DOW-JONES, NIHON KEIZAI FORM JOINT VENTURE,
NIKKEI INTL, TO REPRESENT ALL D-J PUBLICATIONS JAPAN.

3. KOREA

NYT (SEOUL) CALLS NDP, DIP MERGER "SIGNIFICANT
DEVELOPMENT" IN CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRES PARK. WP
SAYS FORMER PRES YUN PO SUN, KIM DAE JUNG, KIM YOUNG
SAM, YANG IL DONG AGREED MERGER.

4. GENERAL

ADP SAYS BORROWED 70 MILLION DOLS BY SALE TWO-YEAR,
6.65 PERCENT BONDS TO MEMBERS; USED IN PART PAY OFF
MATURING 20 MILLION DOL 6.75 PERCENT BONDS SOLD MEMBERS
1973 (WSJ - MANILA).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

5. INDOCHINA

WSTAR (3/30) STATES HAK MADE TWO POINTS "LOUD AND
CLEAR" IN PRESS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY -- NATION THAT
DESTROYS ALLIES BY WITHHOLDING MEANS OF SELF-DEFENSE
IMPERILS OWN SECURITY IN LONG RUN, AND WHAT WE DO IN
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SEA INEVITABLY AFFECTS OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE EVENTS
ELSEWHERE, NOTABLY AT THIS POINT IN ME. STAR CONCURS
WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

NYT'S SULZBERGER IN BAGHDAD (3/30) PERCEIVES LINK BETWEEN EVENTS IN SEA, ME. ATTRIBUTES CHANGE OF VIEW ON PALESTINE EXPRESSED IN INTERVIEW BY HUSSEIN, IN NATION LEANING TO MOSCOW FOR ARMS, IN PART TO "DRAMATIC CRUMBLING" OF ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES IN INDOCHINA. CITES ARAFAT SAYING "VIETNAMESE PEASANT BEAT AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY," AND DAMASCUS IS "HANOI" FOR HIS OWN GUERRILLAS.

GLOBE'S NYHAN (3/30) THINKS CONGRESS MAY APPROVE SOME OF MIL AID PRES SEEKING FOR VN, CAMBODIA, PERHAPS AFTER EASTER RECESS. WITH THAILAND, PHILIPPINES, POSSIBLY INDONESIA TURNING AGAINST US, SEES CONGRESS UNDER PRESSURE KEEP "THROWING MONEY" INTO INDOCHINA EFFORT. EXPECTS SOME MIDDLE-OF-ROADERS ON HILL TO STRADDLE ISSUE BY REFUSING MORE MIL AID TO CAMBODIA, GIVING

SOME TO VN, TO ENSURE NOT CHARGED LATER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLOODBATH.

IN GLOBE FOCUS (3/30) NYHAN FINDS INCREDIBLE NEITHER CONGRESS NOR PRES EVER GAVE PUBLIC ESTIMATE OF ENORMOUS ULTIMATE COST OF INDOCHINA WAR. CITES ECONOMISTS' ESTIMATES MAY RANGE UP TO 900 BILLION DOLS, ENOUGH TO PAY OFF EVERY MORTGAGE IN NATION WITH SOME MONEY LEFT OVER.

NYT (3/30) DECLARES DISORGANIZED RETREAT, CIVILIAN EXODUS HAVE ALTERED OPTIONS OPEN TO SAIGON -- NOW APPEARS FATE HINGES ON GVN CAPACITY TO RALLY ARVN FOR EFFECTIVE STAND N OF CAPITAL. IF EFFECTIVE, STAND COULD BE TURNED INTO PRELUDE FOR EFFORT TO SEEK POLITICAL SOLUTION. SUGGESTS US CAN BEST DISCHARGE RESPONSIBILITIES BY TAKING LEAD TO ALLEVIATE REFUGEES' SUFFERING.

NYT'S WEINRAUB IN SAIGON (3/30) REPORTS WAVE OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT, CHARGES OF BETRAYAL BY UNCLASSIFIED

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FORD ADMIN SWEEPING TENSE CAPITAL. SAYS US OFFICIALS GET "ICY TREATMENT" OR CUT OFF FROM VIET SOURCES "ANGRY AT BETRAYAL." ADDS PRESS NAMES US "CHAY LANG" -- GAMBLERS WHO FLEE LOSING GAME WITHOUT PAYING OFF.

NYT'S WEINRAUB IN SAIGON (3/30) SEES THIEU FACING MOST CRITICAL HOUR "INCREASINGLY ALONE." QUOTES DIPLOMAT SAYING DANGER THIEU "WILL WITHDRAW MORE AND MORE AS THE DANGER GROWS." WHO THIEU SEES NOW IS MYSTERY AND SOME US OFFICIALS "DISTRESSED" WHEN AMB MARTIN STAYED US OVER PAST WEEKS TO LOBBY FOR AID BECAUSE THIEU SPEAKS ONLY TO HIM. ON RETURN

AMB, GEN WEYAND SAW THIEU FRIDAY MORNING, BUT US
LEVERAGE SEEMS "UNCERTAIN" AND "ON WANE." BARRING
SHIFT IN US POLICY, COUP, OR NVN TAKEOVER OBSERVES
THIEU MADE CLEAR INTENT REMAIN IN POWER, WHILE NVN
CLAIMS CANNOT IMPLEMENT PARIS ACCORDS SO LONG AS HE DOES.

PHINQ SAYS IF VN IS LOST IT WAS NEVER OURS TO LOSE.
US NEVER HAD POWER TO SHAPE DESTINY OF VN
AND CAMB. VIETNAMIZATION APPARENTLY FAILURE. THIS
NO TIME FOR RECRIMINATIONS.

JACK ANDERSON IN NUMBER OF PAPERS DESCRIBES VIET EMBASSY
IN DC EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH PRESS CRITICS IN U.S.

DESCRIBES EFFORT OF DEPUTY NGUYEN HUU CHUUNG HEAD OF
"COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS" TO CIRCULATE LETTERS
OF CRITICISM TO US LEGISLATORS.

CHITRIB SAYS US EFFORTS TO RESCUE REFUGEES IN FACE
OF COMMUNIST ATTACKS AND DEMORALIZATION OF GVN
SYMBOLIZES "THE WHOLE SORRY VENTURE."

KINGSBURY SMITH IN BALTO-NA SAYS IT IS APPARENT
ADMINISTRATION BLAMES CONGRESS FOR SHAMBLES OF
US FOREIGN POLICY.

JERRY GREENE IN NYDN ASKS WHERE WAS DETENTE WHEN WE
NEEDED HER AT DANANG. DISCUSSES RUSSIAN AND CHINESE
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AID TO NVN, WHICH GIVES NO SIGN THAT DETENTE HAS BEEN
OPERATING.

MCCARTNEY IN BOSTGLOBE (3/30) SAYS WORLD HAK SOUGHT
TO BUILD IS EXHIBITING SIGNS OF COLLAPSE. HIS ASSESSMENT
OF NO IMMEDIATE DANGER IN VN HAS PROVEN OVERLY
OPTIMISTIC. DETENTE IN TROUBLE. HAK'S PLACE IN
HISTORY STILL NOT SURE. COULD WIND UP AS GENIUS
OF DIPLOMACY OR OLD STYLE DIPLOMATWHO PRESIDED
OVER CONTINUANCE OF COLD WAR.

SUN FEELS THIEU'S DA NANG DEBACLE AND ABYSMALLY
BUNGLED WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN AREAS GIVE NEW
STRENGTH TO THOSE URGING ABRUPT ENDING OF ALL AID
TO SAIGON. FEARS ADMIN, BY OVERSTATING INDOCHINA'S
IMPORT TO US POLICY, RISKED SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY
THAT NOW THREATENS TO COME TRUE (IN USIA WIRELESS
FILE).

NYT URGES US UNDERTAKE INSTANT CRASH PROGRAM TO BRING
TOTHER SERVICES OF GOVT, VOLAGS AND WIDEST PARTICIPATION
OF FOREIGN GOVTS TO AID VN REFUGEES. WELCOMES PROSPECT

THAT LON NOL'S DEPARTURE MAY LEAD TO HALT IN CAMBODIA KILLING (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). MIDDLETON (NYT) FINDS WIDENING ARVN DEMORALIZATION HAS INCREASED DOD PESSIMISM OVER GVN'S ABILITY TO HOLD SAIGON AGAINST COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

LAT'S MCARTHUR (MAR 31) IN SAIGON SUGGESTS US BACKING FOR THIEU SHAKEN BY MIL DEFEATS OF PAST MONTH; BELIEVES US ALSO RECOGNIZES THEIU'S POPULARITY RATING HAS VIRTUALLY DROPPED OFF CHARTS (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). NYT'S WICKER SAYS THIEU SEEMS BOTH TO HAVE PANICKED IN HASTILY

ORDERING ABANDONMENT OF SO MUCH TERRITORY, THEN WAS UNABLE REASSERT CONTROL OR RE-ESTABLISH ORDER. FINDS THIS INDICTMENT OF "VIETNAMIZATION," OTHER US POLICIES (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

LAT'S ELEGANT, IN HK (MAR 30), DEBUNKS "BLOODBATH" THEORY OF IMMEDIATE NVA EXECUTIONS AS "OVERSIMPLIFICATION." BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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LESS PRECIPITATE HANOI DESTRUCTION OF CLASS ENEMIES, ELIMINATION OF STUBBORN OPPONENTS ON LARGE SCALE ARE INEVITABLE (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

WILLS (WSTAR MAR 31) CHARGES ALL HAK TOLD US ABOUT VN HONORABLE PEACE TURNS OUT TO HAVE BEEN FALSE--WHOLE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON FALSE BASIS, WITH SECRETARY'S FALSE ASSURANCES, EMPTY PROMISES, TRICKY DEALS (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). GEORGE WILL (IN WP AND SUN) SEES US CONFUSED, PARALYZED BY INCOHERENCE IN HAK'S DETENTE POLICY -- IF SECRETARY WON'T DENOUNCE BREZHNEV'S FINANCING NVN AGGRESSION, HE CAN'T EXPECT AMERICAN PEOPLE TO FINANCE RESISTANCE TO THAT AGGRESSION (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

LETTERS TO NYT: REP STRATTON ACCUSES REP FENWICH OF WANTING DENY GVN, GKR WEAPONS THEY NEED TO FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL; RUTGERS ASIAN STUDIES PROF SILVERSTEIN ARGUES NO AMOUNT OF AMMO WILL ACHIEVE "PEACE WITH HONOR" BECAUSE US DEBASED IDEA IN NIXON/HAK RHETORIC AND OUR PURSUIT OF ONE-SIDED VN POLICY SINCE 1973; AND REV NEUHAUS (FOUNDER OF CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED ABOUT VN) URGES PROGRAM OF US ASYLUM FOR THOUSANDS IN SVN MARKED FOR EXECUTION, OTHER HANOI REPRISALS (ALL IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

WP CARRIES LETTER FROM JUNIOR ARVN OFFICER ASKING US NOT "WASH YOUR HANDS AND DESERT US" (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). LAT'S DONOVAN (MAR 30) SAYS CASE CAN BE MADE FOR EMERGENCY MIL AID, IF SVN DOES NOT COLLAPSE UNDER CURRENT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE. SEES INDOCHINA AS MORE CHALLENGE TO US SENSE OF FAIR PLAY,

HUMANITARIANISM, THAN US STRATEGY (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

JACQUES LESLIE (LAT MAR 31), IN PP, QUOTES CAMBODIAN SENATE PRES KHOY THAT LON NOL LEAVING COUNTRY IN EFFORT TO INFLUENCE US CONGRESS APPROVE MIL AID FOR COUNTRY. WITH ADMIN FORBIDDEN USE US FORCES IN INDOCHINA, KHOY SUGGESTED PRES FORD MIGHT SEND TROOPS TO PP, THEN RESIGN 60 DAYS LATER, IN ORDER SAVE US HONOR. LESLIE (MAR 30) ALSO SAW FAILURE OF INSURGENTS' PP ROCKETING UNCLASSIFIED

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TO TURN PEOPLE AGAINST GKR AS PROOF BUDDHIST FATALISM

MORE DOMINANT THAN ANGER (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

6. KOREA

NYT'S HALLORAN IN SEOUL (3/30) CITES US MIL SOURCES THAT ROK CREDIBILITY "SERIOUSLY DAMAGED" BY EXAGGERATED CRIES ABOUT SERIOUS NK MIL THREAT. SAYS US OFFICIALS "PRIVATELY WARNED" ROK OFFICIALS CONTINUATION COULD ENDANGER SK SECURITY, BY INDUCING SKEPTICISM ABOUT NK HOSTILITY AND RELUCTANCE RESPOND IN EMERGENCY. EVEN SO, MIN DEF CALLED DMZ TUNNELS "ACT OF WAR." OBSERVES NO ONE DENIES NK POSES BASIC SECURITY THREAT, BUT DIPLOMATS, MIL SEEM MORE CONCERNED WITH POSSIBILITY NK MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN SK THAN OVERT ATTACK ACROSS BORDER.

HARVARD'S JEROME COHEN (IN GLOBE 3/30) DEPLORES LOSS OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN ROK, THAT "ESTABLISHMENT" BAR SLOW TO CHALLENGE. BUT RAPIDLY SPREADING CONCERN ABOUT FAILURE OF MANY LAWYERS LIVE UP TO MORAL OBLIGATIONS CAN NOW ONLY BE IGNORED AT COST OF INTEGRITY. SEES SIGN LEADING LAWYERS READY RETRIEVE PROFESSION'S PRESTIGE IN RECENT FORCED RESIGNATION OF BAR ASSN PRES KWAK MYONG DUK FOR FAILURE ACT ON RESOLUTION URGING ROKG "RESTORE DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL PRACTISE" AND RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS. CAUTIONS SIGNIFICANCE OF EVENT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERRATED; SEES BAR CLEANSING SELF AS PREREQUISITE TO EFFECTIVE PROTESTS, AND NOTES CRITICAL MASS OF LAWYERS FUELED BY RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION CAN BE POTENT FORCE AGAINST OPPRESSION.

7. JAPAN

BRADEN IN WP RECALLS CHAIRMAN MAO SURPRISED HAK ON ONE OF FIRST VISITS TO CHINA BY "REMARKING WITH CONSIDERABLE FORCE" HE OUGHT PAY MORE ATTENTION TO JAPAN. UNHEEDED AT TIME, WARNING IS REMEMBERED NOW, FOR WITH CAMBODIA, VN GOING UNDER, THAILAND PRESSING EXPEL US FORCES, EVEN

PHILIPPINES NERVOUS, JAPAN BECOMES VITAL TO US PRESENCE
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IN FE. DESCRIBES CURRENT US-JAPAN RELATIONS "FORTUITOUSLY"
QUITE GOOD. SUGGESTS WHAT NEEDED TO CEMENT TIES IS
CHANGE OF HEART BY HAK, WHO MADE NO SECRET OF NOT BEING
PARTICULARLY FOND" OF JAPANESE, PERHAPS ON CUE FROM
NIXON. BUT WITH DOMINOES FALLING, NIXON OUT OF WAY,
STATES HAK COULD AFFORD RELENT, FOR JAPAN WE USED CALL
"KEYSTONE" OF US PRESENCE IN FE SEEMS ABOUT TO BECOME
ONLY STONE THERE IS. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EA PRESS SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE073530
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750113-0696
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197504102/baaaagwg.tel
Line Count: 558
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
MOSCOW
TRSY
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
HONG KONG

JEC PARIS INFO USSAGE NKP
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COGARD
BUDAPEST BY POUCH
XMT SUVA
RANGOON
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006